



Montana public K-12 schools are invited to apply for a series of sponsored trainings and energy management grants in 2017. The Better Buildings Better Learning (BBBL) cohort is hosted in partnership with USGBC Montana, Montana DEQ, Montana Energy Corps, and the Whitefish School District.

This program is designed to assist Montana public K-12 schools seeking opportunities to save money and resources and improve learning outcomes by improving school facilities. The BBBL program provides free technical training to facilities managers, and other school staff, using the LEED green building framework as a means to improve school building performance. Participants will also explore opportunities for integrating sustainability into classroom curriculum using the school property as a living laboratory. Schools are encouraged to send teams including facilities staff, educators and administrators to the BBBL trainings. The four part training series consist of one in person green schools training and three web based trainings throughout the remainder of 2017. Cohort participants will also have the opportunity to stay in regular contact with one another for mutual support and problem solving discussions. Limited funding is available to assist with the costs of attending the in person training.

Participating schools interested in focusing specifically on reducing energy use can also apply for the Strategic Energy Management (SEM) grant\*. The Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is offering funding to six (6) schools throughout the state through a Strategic Energy Management grant. The grant is meant to serve public schools (K-12) that have, or are in the process of creating, a formal plan as a continuous improvement approach to energy management in order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and create financial value by improving upon the energy efficiency of school facilities and buildings. Each grant of \$20,000 will be used to complete an energy audit or an energy efficient project design. DEQ will directly pay chosen consultant/contractor for expenses up to \$20,000. The deadline for the SEM application is February 28, 2017.

In order to be considered for the SEM Grant, each school must have a district representative with facility oversight attend five mandatory trainings before December 2017. The mandatory trainings are as follows:

1. SEM Conference call: Before application deadline
2. Building Operator Certification (DEQ): April 11, 2017 in Helena or August 15, 2017 in Bozeman
3. Green Schools Training (MBI, Bozeman, MT): June 19-23, 2017
4. Three Web-based Green Schools Trainings: Dates TBD - Fall 2017
5. Indoor Air Quality Training (DEQ, Helena, MT): Date TBD - Fall 2017

The Montana Department of Environmental Quality will cover travel related expenses for district representatives of SEM grant recipients while attending the required SEM trainings listed above.

To find out more information or to apply please visit:

<http://bit.ly/2lrbtIK>

For additional information or questions please contact Robyn Boyle at 406-444-1842 or [rboyle@mt.gov](mailto:rboyle@mt.gov). As well as Callye Foster at 406-444-2811 or [cfoster2@mt.gov](mailto:cfoster2@mt.gov)